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Honorable Carl Vinson
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We have been trying to devise ways and means of familiarizing interested members of the Congress with more of the details on important operations and programs being carried out by the Central Intelligence Agency. I have felt for some time that a first-hand knowledge and observation of some of these activities would be of great mutual benefit both to the Congress and to the Agency.

One of the most interesting aspects of our work in the United States is the training which is given to Agency personnel prior to their assignment in sensitive posts abroad. For this purpose, we have established an installation, located not far from Washington, where these individuals are given a rigorous and intensive course in the techniques and methods which they must employ in their assignments overseas. This installation is the most effective of its kind that we know of, and I feel sure that a first-hand observation of its activities would provide an acquaintance with the kind of operation in which we are involved which could not be obtained through any amount of written or oral briefing in the normal course of Committee hearings.

In order to provide an opportunity for this kind of observation, I would like to extend a cordial invitation to you and to the members of your Subcommittee dealing with CIA matters to be the guests of this Agency on an inspection of this facility on April 26 and 27 of this year. We would propose that members able to attend this inspection convene in my office in the Administration Building, 2430 E Street, N. W., at 0830 on the morning of April 26. They will then be escorted to an airfield, where they will board a plane which will carry them to the installation. Colonel Matthew Baird, our Director of Training, and

(Identical ltrs. sent to Chairmen Clarence Cannon of House Appropriations; Richard B. Russell of Senate Armed Services; and Carl Hayden of Senate Appropriations)

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other senior officials of the Agency will escort the group, which will be given a thorough briefing on the various aspects of our work and will have an opportunity to observe a typical class as they go through their training exercises. We are suggesting a two-day schedule for this inspection because it is impossible to cover fully the activities of this school within a shorter period, and many of the most interesting operations are carried on at night. You will appreciate that we cannot give further details in this letter, but I can assure you that the experience will be a unique one for all those who are able to attend. We will arrange the schedule so as to permit a return arrival in Washington by no later than 3:00 P.M. on the 27th.

I recognize that you and the other members of your Subcommittee are extremely busy at all times while the Congress is in session. I do hope, however, that you will circulate this invitation to other Subcommittee members, and that as many as possible will be able to join us. We can promise a full, but not overly tiring schedule, and comfortable overnight facilities. We are also pleased to extend this invitation to a member of the staff of your Committee if you desire that he accompany the members. I only regret that we are unable to extend a wider invitation, but you will appreciate, I am sure, that the activities which are to be observed are of a highly sensitive nature, and we must therefore confine the invitation to the membership of the four subcommittees with which we deal, and to staff personnel authorized by the Committees to have full access to information on our activities.

I would appreciate it if your office would contact Mr. Norman Paul, Legislative Counsel of this Agency, [redacted] after you and the other members of the Subcommittee have had an opportunity to consider this matter. Mr. Paul will also be in a position to answer any questions which individual members may wish to raise concerning itinerary or arrangements. 25X1

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

IG:WSP/blc (21 Mar. 56)
Orig. & 1 - Addee
2 - Signer 1 - DD/I 1 - DD/S
1 - DD/P 1 - SA/DCI (Grogan)
1 - LC 1 - Dir. of Training
NOTE: Cleared in substance with DD/S, DD/P and Office of Training.

CO [redacted] 25X1
Inspector General

Orig - 1 Handcarried to Addee by Mr. Paul

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